

able to give to charity. That is true citizenship, Mr. Speaker, and House Republicans could learn a lot from Elizabeth.

These are the personal stories of those who have been hurt by Congress' failure to act. If Republicans don't want to extend unemployment insurance because it is the right thing to do for our fellow Americans, then maybe—then maybe—you will do it because it is the right thing to do for the economy.

Overall, failing to renew the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program will cost the economy 200,000 jobs this year, according to the Congressional Budget Office, including 3,000 jobs in my home State of Nevada. Failing to extend unemployment insurance has drained, already, nearly \$5 billion from our State economies, including \$70 million from Nevada's economy, at a time when economic growth is needed the most.

□ 1445

For every \$1 that is spent on unemployment insurance, it grows the economy by \$1.52. So, whichever way you look at it, there is no excuse for inaction.

When the Senate acts next week, the country's attention will turn to the House, and I am here with my colleagues today to urge the Speaker to listen to the Americans in this country who are desperately depending on us to act. At the end of next week, we will go into a work period for 2 weeks. During those 2 weeks, Americans will suffer if we don't act.

Mr. Speaker, we must be ready to act, and I urge my colleagues to do the right thing by extending unemployment insurance for the millions of Americans who need it now.

Again, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan and my other colleagues who have joined for this Special Order.

Mr. LEVIN. Thank you so much for your eloquence. I hope this country is listening as well as your beloved State.

Now I yield to another friend of mine and, most importantly, to somebody whose life embodies caring for others, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. I am pleased to join with him and others of my colleagues as we come to the floor to call for the immediate passage of legislation in the House to concur with the Senate in the restoration of unemployment benefits to the more than 2.2 million Americans who have been cut off of extended unemployment insurance because our Republican colleagues continue to block an extension of the program.

Mr. Speaker, it is inconceivable to me that, as a government, as a nation, we would leave all of these individuals hanging, many of them since December 28 of last year, in 2013. Nationally,

nearly 72,000 people are losing unemployment insurance, on average, every week, adding to the 202 million people who have already lost their benefits. The Department of Labor estimated that the bipartisan Senate agreement to extend emergency unemployment insurance would benefit nearly 2.8 million people. That is a big part of America.

Long-term unemployment wrecks people's lives. It makes it almost impossible for them to ever catch up because they have gotten behind. They have lost what they had. They have been evicted from their homes. Their children have had to leave college. They just have not known which way to turn except to turn to their government, which they believe has their interests at heart and will do the right thing by and for them.

Illinois, my State—the home of Lincoln—is estimated to have lost \$296,763,435, just under \$300 million, in unemployment benefits during the first 3 months of the year. Any way you count it, that is a lot of money, and it takes that money away from and out of the economy. Those of us who understand a certain kind of economics know that, if you are not able to exchange goods and services, if people are not able to go to the store and get a bottle of milk or to stop at the service station and buy gasoline, there is no point in talking about economic recovery. So, not only is it in the best interests of those individuals who are in need of unemployment benefits, but it is also in the best interest of our Nation as a whole.

Mr. LEVIN, I want to commend you for the leadership that you have provided on this issue. I want to thank you for the tremendous leadership and for your understanding of the issues facing America.

I hope that, next week, when we return, that our colleagues will realize that we, too, can make a difference, that we can join with the Senate and pass unemployment insurance benefits for more than 2.8 million Americans.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank you for your eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is left in our hour?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. Before I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) for the remainder of my time, I just want to conclude in this way.

This is a bipartisan bill that is coming over from the Senate. This country has asked for bipartisanship. That bill embodies it. This country has asked for fiscal care. Traditionally, unemployment insurance has not been paid for. This bill is paid for on a bipartisan basis.

So what more is America asking for?

It is asking for people in this institution to step into the shoes of several million people who are hardworking, who have lost their jobs through no

fault of their own, who are looking for work, many of them never having been unemployed before. If there is a vote allowed in this institution, this bill will pass. There is only one obstacle to our doing what is right, and that is whether there will be a decision on the part of the leadership of this House to let us vote, and it won't be ourselves voting. It will be America voting. America wants a vote to help the several million and their families.

So I leave here, going out of Washington, hoping that when all of us return that we will have looked into the eyes of fellow and sister Americans out of work, that we will have reached out and will have listened to their stories, and that we will come back with a sense of urgency, with a sense of decency, and with a conscience. This issue should be on the consciences of every Member of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE RYAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. NOLAN. Thank you, Mr. LEVIN, for this Special Order and for bringing to the attention of our colleagues and the country the importance of providing unemployment insurance for the millions of people who are struggling and who are in danger of losing their homes and the ability to feed their families.

As a businessman over the last 32 years, I would like to point out to these people who somehow like to characterize these people as scofflaws who don't want to work and remind them that you don't qualify for unemployment insurance unless you are a worker and have found yourself unemployed by virtue of circumstances you had no control over.

You are so right that this is the right thing to do. It is bipartisan, and there is a pay-for here. We should have the good judgment and the decency to extend the unemployment insurance for these people. So I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address another issue, and it is the fact that most of us here in the Congress grew up at a time when our leaders weren't afraid to invest in our country, to invest in human development, and because of them, education was affordable. Guess what? That is no longer true.

Now we are faced with a Ryan budget that cuts Pell grants for poor and needy kids who would like to get a postgraduate education.

Medicare. Nothing has ever done more to extend the lives of more people than Medicare. In a little over a generation, we went from a nation with a life expectancy of about 47 to over 77. What does the Ryan budget do with

Medicare? It eliminates it as we know it. It turns the elderly back over to the insurance industry.

Our leaders in the past invested in transportation, in health, in education. They created the strongest economy and the strongest and largest middle class in the history of the world, and now our bridges are falling down. What does the Ryan budget do? It cuts funding for transportation.

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest. The simple truth is that the Ryan budget guts funding for all of the investments that created and were responsible for the incredible national and individual success that our generation has enjoyed. It cuts everything from Head Start to health to essential air service, funding for basic research for health and technology—so many of the things that made us a great Nation. Now, after being the beneficiaries of what our generation before us did, we don't want to invest in the future of our children and their children.

It is time for a budget that acknowledges the real foundations of our prosperity, of our opportunities, and of our freedom here in this country. Let's put forth a budget that shows our gratitude for the next generation. Let's pay it forward. Let's be mindful of how many important things that leaders in the past did for us in laying this foundation. Where I come from there is a wonderful, old Biblical saying that says, "For those to whom much is given, much is expected"—not less but more. Let's do for the next generation what the past generation did for us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LET'S DO FOR THE NEXT GENERATION WHAT THE LAST GENERATION DID FOR US

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I just want to chime in in agreement with the last thing that my colleague across the aisle said. He said let's do for the next generation what the last generation did for us.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is incredibly important. What a great thing my Democratic friend said, because every generation before ours has tried to live within its means.

□ 1500

This generation that is in power in this Congress is the first generation that continues to spend not only children's money, but grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's money.

We have accumulated such debt that our children are not only not going to rise up and call us blessed, they are going to rise up and swear at our names. Because this is the generation that has felt that it was so incredibly

important that we needed to put our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in hock just so we would not have to quit spending money so irresponsibly.

I could not agree more with that last statement. Let's do for the next generation what the last generation did for us. Thank goodness I have a friend on the other side saying that. He pointed out the verse of Scripture:

To whom much is given, much is required.

We have been given much. We have been blessed more than any nation in the history of the world. We have got more freedoms than Solomon's Israel could have ever dreamed of and more individual assets than any nation in history could have dreamed of. We have been given much.

As a result, this generation has become so self-centered, so narcissistic, so self-indulgent, so obese that we want to engorge ourselves at the expense of future generations.

Let me just say I haven't decided what I am going to do about the Ryan budget. I am still going through it. PAUL RYAN and I have had some very severe disagreements during my 9-plus years here, but I know this: he does not want to hurt future generations. He wants to do for the next generation what the last generation did for us.

And we will not—we cannot—do that if we are spending money so irresponsibly that generations to follow us will be paying the debts and the interest on those debts without getting a dime of the benefits that we engorged ourselves with in this generation. So it is time to be responsible.

I disagree with something my colleague said when he said, basically, the Ryan bill destroys Medicare as we know it. I don't know if I like what PAUL RYAN has been able to do about Medicare. I would have handled it differently. It is one of the things I am struggling with.

What he is trying to do is what Democrats should have done for 40 years before the Republicans took office. They had the majority before the 1994 election. They put us on a course to destroying Social Security. Since the sixties, after Medicare was passed, we have been on a course to bankrupt Medicare so our children and grandchildren will have nothing for themselves because we spent it all on ourselves.

So I don't know if it was the best way to do it, but I know what PAUL RYAN was trying to do. He is trying to make sure that we protect our seniors and we make sure that we can have future generations have some of the same protections. And from what I was reading, he is trying to do that. Some changes would come in Social Security, from what I am reading, but not for anybody 56 or older.

Anyway, I am still making up my mind on the bill, but I know what PAUL RYAN was trying to do. He was trying to do an honorable thing for future generations, just like my colleague said he felt we should be doing.

I also want to get to another topic today that has been so much on the minds and hearts of people all over the country this week as Killeen, Fort Hood, Texas, has had another mass shooting.

The first one was in the civilian sector in a cafeteria. That caused Texas to rise up and pass a concealed-carry permit law, which was driven by a woman whose parents were killed there. She had to put her gun in the glove compartment and couldn't take it in. She could have saved her parents had we had a concealed-carry permit law in place at the time of that mass shooting.

I have had people ask, as I know my friend from Georgia has: What have you guys in Congress done since the last shooting at Fort Hood to protect our soldiers? What has the Commander in Chief done to protect the military members under his command?

Under this Commander in Chief, we saw in Afghanistan that in half the time he had twice as many fatalities—even more than that in injuries—of our military members in Afghanistan. That is half the time of the Bush administration and about twice as many fatalities.

We have seen what happened there. But what about right here?

After the first Fort Hood shooting, it was an outrage—as it should be to every military member and everybody that understands anything about the military—when this Commander in Chief allowed the incident to be called workplace violence when, clearly, Nidal Hasan, according to all the witnesses, stood up, made the universal cry that a radical Islamist terrorist makes, claiming, in essence, that he is going to kill innocent people on behalf of a god who likes people like him to kill innocent people, just as they think there is a god that liked planes being flown into buildings to kill thousands of innocent men, women, and children. That is a god I don't know, and I know that is a god I will never meet.

But I want to talk at this time about what we should be doing for our soldiers.

I have got a bill that legislative counsel is working on right now. We will be filing it early next week. We anticipate calling it the Save Our Soldiers bill, or SOS. They have been crying "SOS." It is just that nobody in their highest chain of command has listened.

Well, Congress is listening and we are going to get something done, if there are enough people down the hall in the Senate who worry about their election next November that they will actually take this bill up and do something to protect our soldiers, other than lip service. Lip service doesn't really protect you against an incoming round.

At this point, I would yield to my dear friend from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas.